

their families. They do not need training vouchers for jobs that do not exist.

Democrats have offered proposals that will create real solutions for Americans. We have proposed a highway bill that would create 1.8 million good-paying jobs more than the Republican bill. Democrats have also proposed enacting tax bills that will keep manufacturing jobs here in the U.S. and end incentives for shipping jobs overseas.

Americans also need Congress to extend tax cuts for the middle class, such as a child tax credit, without adding to the deficit. These are real solutions that create new jobs for out-of-work Americans and keep existing jobs at home.

We should be voting to pass these meaningful solutions to unemployment in this country and not wasting our time on gimmicks.

BUSH ECONOMIC BOOM IS IN FULL SWING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in this past Sunday's Washington Times, the highly revered economist Lawrence Kudlow spelled out very clearly how President George W. Bush's strong economic policies have produced a sustained surge in the economy.

Mr. Kudlow rightly said that "over the past year, following the enactment of the President's tax cut plan, real economic growth has increased 5 percent with only 1.6 percent inflation. After-tax profits have increased 37 percent. Business spending on equipment and software has grown 12.5 percent. Since last August, 1.1 million jobs have been created. Spendable income has increased 4.9 percent, and consumer spending is up 4.3 percent."

Indeed, not since Ronald Reagan was President has our economy grown faster. There can no longer be any question what effect lower taxes have on the economy. When Americans have more of their own money to spend and invest, the economy soars.

President Bush should be proud that despite the battles he faced in making these tax cuts a reality, his vision for more jobs and a prosperous America has come true.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY ON THE TAKE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the pharmaceutical companies have a friend in the White House. Since George Bush has been President, pharmaceutical prices

have gone up five times as fast as the cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security, five times faster than inflation, and now we have passed the phony prescription drug benefit under Medicare that provides these bizarre discount cards which put all the obligation on the seniors and none on the pharmaceutical companies.

They jacked up the prices of the most common drugs taken by seniors by up to 30 percent in the last year. Now they are going to give them a 15 percent discount. Just like the used car dealer, he jacked up the price 2,000 bucks before you walked on the lot, and then he says, I will give you a \$1,000 discount. Hey, what a great deal.

That is what is being done to America's seniors under the leadership of this President and the Republican leaders of this House who are in the pocket and on the take from the pharmaceutical industry.

DEMOCRATS' PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN WOULD COST MUCH MORE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard all about the prescription drug card being available this month for the most disadvantaged, but there has been some discussion about how much this prescription drug benefit costs and whose estimates are the best estimates.

The Democrats are saying this program costs way too much money. But, Mr. Speaker, remember last year they introduced their own Medicare prescription drug benefit plan? Theirs would have cost \$1 trillion. Luckily, we passed a more responsible yet critical bill that offers prescription drugs for our seniors for a lot less than what the Democrats proposed. Yet in the last few weeks, the Democrats have been complaining that the Republican plan is too expensive and that we should take prescription drug coverage back from our seniors.

Let us not forget the Democrats support a candidate for President who has proposed a health insurance plan that would cost the Nation almost \$1 trillion. So there it is.

How come the Democrats complain about the cost of the prescription drug plan when they and their standard bearer want to spend much, much more?

STATISTICS ON THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a few statistics on the state of the economy.

America's economy grew at its fastest quarterly rate in 20 years, a posi-

tively sizzling 8.2 percent. Manufacturing activities have risen to their highest level in nearly 2 decades. Worker productivity is near a 20-year high. More folks than ever before own their own homes. Inflation, interest rates, and mortgage rates are near historic lows. Last month marked the ninth consecutive month of increased employment. The jobless rate is below the average for the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 1990s.

But one American out of work is one too many. So today, we will try to empower those who want to work by creating personal reemployment accounts to give these folks the help and the incentives they need to find jobs. Real help for real families, that is what this Republican-led Congress is all about.

REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the prescription drug benefit addition to Medicare, which was passed by the Republican Congress, Republican Senate, and signed by the Republican President, mostly over Democrat objections, has four aspects we need to remember:

Number one, this very popular program, endorsed by the AARP and most senior groups and health care groups, starts officially in the year 2006.

Number two, it is voluntary.

Number three, it reduces the cost of prescription drugs by approximately 50 percent after the premiums and the deductibles are met. It is about a 50-percent reduction, not as much as many would want; yet it is still affordable.

Number four, effective yesterday, June 1, many seniors, and those who voluntarily have decided to buy a prescription drug card similar to this, will enjoy a 20 percent discount on their drugs.

That means that my mom and dad, and yours too, perhaps, can start getting about a 20 percent discount on Glucophage or Lipitor or whatever prescription drug they need. All they need to do is dial 1-800 Medicare or www.Medicare.gov in order to see how they can immediately start saving 20 percent on their prescription drugs.

□ 1030

THE SHAME AND THE SHAM OF THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I find it very interesting that the other side has taken this opportunity to talk about the Medicare prescription drug bill. Two provisions the Democrats